



STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

2010 STRATEGIC PLAN

**Department of Conservation
Resources Agency**

November 2010



STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

STRATEGIC PLAN

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD



ERIN GARNER
Chairman



CHARLIE WYATT
Vice Chairman



BRIAN BACA



JOHN LANE



BEN LICARI



KATHY LUND



BARBARA LUNDBURG



ROBERT TEPEL



BOARD STAFF

STEPHEN M. TESTA, Executive Officer
State Mining and Geology Board
801 K Street, MS 20-15
Sacramento, California 95814-3528

WILL ARCAND
NICOLE BRISTOW
JOCELYN FERNANDEZ

Telephone: (916) 322-1082
Facsimile: (916) 445-0738
smgb@conservation.ca.gov
<http://conservation.ca.gov/smgb>

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD



I am pleased to present this latest revision of the State Mining and Geology Board's Strategic Plan, which reflects the combined interests and energies of the entire 8-member Board. The Board is a small group of dedicated professionals representing a diverse cross-section of geologic, local government, engineering and land-use expertise, appointed by the Governor to advise the Department of Conservation and advocate sound earth science and regulatory policy.

This Strategic Plan is consistent with the Governor's policies and with State mandates. It is an aggressive plan, not only intended to provide us with an overall policy direction for the next decade, but also with a set of very specific goals and objectives with which to implement those policies for the immediate future.

While the Board's accomplishments have been significant for the State of California, and its citizens and environment, the challenges before the Board in the years to come are even greater. The Board has been constrained to operate with very limited resources for most of its history, and especially during the past decade. The Legislature foresaw and authorized mechanisms for the infusion of additional resources and expertise that might be required to accomplish the mandates and responsibilities of the Board should circumstances require it. However, the Strategic Plan is only as good as the ability of the Board, with support from its stakeholders, to implement its goals. The Board looks forward to continued cooperative participation of the Department of Conservation and its Divisions, and support from its constituents and stakeholders in this effort.

STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

STRATEGIC PLAN

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	6
2. PROGRAM OVERVIEWS.....	7
STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD.....	7
MISSION STATEMENT	7
ALQUIST-PRIOLO EARTHQUAKE FAULT ZONING ACT	7
PRINCIPAL CUSTOMERS	8
CORE RESPONSIBILITIES TO CUSTOMERS.....	8
SEISMIC HAZARDS MAPPING ACT.....	8
PRINCIPAL CUSTOMERS	9
CORE RESPONSIBILITIES TO CUSTOMERS.....	9
SURFACE MINING AND RECLAMATION ACT OF 1975	9
PRINCIPAL CUSTOMERS	10
CORE RESPONSIBILITIES TO CUSTOMERS.....	10
3. GOALS, STRATEGIES AND OBJECTIVES	12
GOAL 1. THE PRUDENT AND SENSIBLE DEVELOPMENT, USE, AND CONSERVATION OF THE STATE'S MINERAL RESOURCES	13
STRATEGIES	13
OBJECTIVES.....	13
GOAL II. THE RECLAMATION OF MINED LANDS TO A USABLE CONDITION THAT IS READILY ADAPTABLE FOR ALTERNATIVE LAND USES	15
STRATEGIES	15
OBJECTIVES.....	15
GOAL III. DEVELOP GEOLOGIC AND SEISMIC HAZARD INFORMATION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC.....	16
STRATEGIES	16
OBJECTIVES.....	16
GOAL IV. PROVIDE A DIRECT FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND FOR APPEALS OF AGENCY ACTIONS	18
STRATEGIES	18
OBJECTIVES.....	18
GOAL V. DEVELOP AND PROMOTE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS REGARDING THE STATE'S GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES, AND THE BOARD'S SERVICES	19

STRATEGIES	19
OBJECTIVES.....	19
GOAL VI. EXPAND THE BOARD’S INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AND INTER-AGENCY	
COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATIONS	20
STRATEGIES	20
OBJECTIVES.....	20
4. BUDGET AND STAFFING PERSPECTIVE.....	22
5. TARGETS FOR YEARS 2009-2010	24
ATTACHMENT A:	
STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD ORGANIZATION CHART	
ATTACHMENT B:	
OVERVIEW OF THE STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN	

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Presented herein is the latest revision to the State Mining and Geology Board's (Board) Strategic Plan. Development of this Strategic Plan is the charge of the Board. The Board conducts public meetings specifically for the purpose of receiving comments and ideas for incorporation into the Strategic Plan. The Board continues to periodically review and revise the Strategic Plan to reflect task accomplishments, and to incorporate new challenges to be addressed. The Strategic Plan was last adopted in October 2009.

The Strategic Plan presents a Mission Statement, supported by six Goals. Each of the Goals is sustained by a list of Strategies for achieving those Goals. The Strategies in turn require specific Objectives (tasks) that must be performed.

It is the intent of the Board that this Strategic Plan be a dynamic document, where new Objectives are added as earlier ones are achieved. Ultimately, with the passage of time and changing of responsibilities, the Plan's Goals and even the Board's Mission may change. The Board intends this Plan to be a Working Document, by which the Board's decisions will be guided. In the process of preparing and implementing the Board's Strategic Plan, input was encouraged from all stakeholders, both public and private, including industry, academic institutions and professional organizations. It is in the spirit of this cooperative effort that this revised Strategic Plan is presented.

Stephen M. Testa
Executive Officer

2. PROGRAM OVERVIEWS

STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

The State Mining and Geology Board (Board) was established in 1885 as the Board of Trustees. Its purpose was to oversee the activities of the State Mineralogist and

the Bureau of Mines (now the California Geological Survey (CGS)). Today's Board is composed of nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, for four-year terms. The Board operates within the Department of Conservation, and is granted certain autonomous responsibilities and obligations under several statutes. The Board's general authority is granted under Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 660-678. Specifically, PRC Section 662(b) requires all Board members to "represent the general public interest". The Board serves as a regulatory, policy and appeals body representing the State's interests in geology, geologic and seismologic hazards, conservation of mineral resources and reclamation of lands following surface mining activities.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the State Mining and Geology Board is to represent the State's interest in the development, utilization and conservation of mineral resources; reclamation of mined lands; development and dissemination of geologic and seismic hazard information; and to provide a forum for public redress.

ALQUIST-PRIOLO EARTHQUAKE FAULT ZONING ACT

Under this Act, the Board is authorized to represent the State's interests in establishing professional guidelines and standards for geological and geophysical investigations and reports produced by the California Geological Survey, public sector agencies, and private practitioners. The Board, also, is authorized to develop specific criteria through regulations that shall be used by affected Lead Agencies in complying with the provisions of the Act so as to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

This Act (Public Resources Code, Chapter 7.5, Section 2621 through Section 2630) is intended to provide policies and criteria to assist cities, counties and state agencies in the exercise of their responsibilities to prohibit the location of developments and structures for human occupancy across the trace of active faults as defined by the Board. Further, it is the intent of this Act to provide the citizens of the State with increased safety and to minimize the loss of life during and immediately following earthquakes by facilitating seismic retrofitting to strengthen buildings, and all public works facilities, including historical buildings, against ground shaking.

PRINCIPAL CUSTOMERS

1. General public.
2. City, County and State agencies having jurisdictions over zoning ordinances, building codes, and general plan developments.
3. Land developers and contractors.
4. California Geological Survey / Department of Conservation.
5. Professional geological, geophysical, and engineering consulting community.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES TO CUSTOMERS

1. Provide policies and criteria governing the exercise of city, county and State agency responsibilities to prohibit the location of developments and structures for human occupancy across the trace of active faults.
2. Provide specific guidelines for evaluating the hazards of surface fault rupture.
3. Provide for the public review and comment on new and revised Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone maps produced by the State Geologist, and to convey and recommend those comments to the State Geologist for incorporation into the maps.

SEISMIC HAZARDS MAPPING ACT

Under this Act, the Board is authorized to provide policy and guidance through regulations for a statewide seismic hazard mapping and technical advisory program to assist cities, counties, and state agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities for protecting the public health and safety from the effects of strong ground shaking, liquefaction or other ground failure, landslides and other seismic hazards caused by earthquakes, including tsunami and seiche threats.

The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act (Public Resources Code Chapter 7.8, Section 2690 through Section 2699.6) establishes the authority to provide programs to identify and map seismic hazard zones in the State in order for cities and counties to adequately prepare the safety element of their general plans and to encourage land use management policies and regulations to reduce and mitigate those hazards so as to protect public health and safety.

PRINCIPAL CUSTOMERS

1. General public.

2. City, County and State agencies having jurisdictions over zoning ordinances, building codes, and general plan developments.
3. Land developers and contractors.
4. California Geological Survey.
5. Professional geological, geophysical, and engineering consulting community and associations.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES TO CUSTOMERS

1. Provide policies and criteria governing the exercise of City, County and State agency responsibilities for protecting the public's health and safety from seismic hazards through informed land use decisions.
2. Provide guidelines for the prioritized preparation of maps of seismic hazard zones in the State.
3. Provide guidelines and standards through regulation for evaluating seismic hazards and recommending mitigation measures.
4. Provide for the public review and comment on new and revised seismic Hazard Maps produced by the State Geologist, and to convey and recommend those comments to the State Geologist for incorporation into the maps.
5. Provide a mechanism for timely revisions of geologic hazard maps.

SURFACE MINING AND RECLAMATION ACT OF 1975

We all are dependent on our environment to live. Our quality of life and our economy is dependent on the quality of our living spaces, working environment and especially our recreational environment. Considering that everything glass or ceramic or metal originated from mined materials and that all concrete comprising our infrastructure has mining as its base industry, the Board recognizes that efficient management of our mineral resources while sustaining clean air, clean water, and restoring land use is essential for California to thrive. It is the goal of the Board to establish policies that optimize the balance between extracting minerals and sustaining the environment to provide the maximum benefit to the people of California, now and in the future.

The overall management of mineral resources in a thoughtful and responsible manner is essential to the continued economic well being of the State and to the needs of society, and the thoughtful reclamation of mined lands is necessary to prevent or minimize adverse effects on the environment and to protect the public health and safety. Similarly, known mineral resources that are not currently being mined require protection from irreversible land uses that will preclude their use by

future generations. The encouragement of wise land-use-planning policies by local governments is another role of the Board.

Under these statutes, the Board is authorized to represent the State's interests in the development, use and conservation of the State's mineral resources, the reclamation of mined lands, and federal matters pertaining to surface mining within the State.

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA, Public Resources Code, Sections 2710-2793), provides a comprehensive surface mining and reclamation policy with the regulation of surface mining operations to assure that adverse environmental impacts are minimized and mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition. SMARA, also, encourages the production, conservation, and protection of the State's mineral resources. (Public Resources Section 2207 provides for the annual reporting requirements of this statute, under which the Board also is granted authority and obligations).

PRINCIPAL CUSTOMERS

1. General public.
2. Approximately 109 "Lead Agencies" (counties and cities), with authority over surface mining operations within their jurisdictions.
3. Approximately 1,400 reporting surface mining operations within the State.
4. Department of Conservation's Office of Mine Reclamation.
5. Department of Conservation's California Geological Survey.
6. Other state and federal agencies that rely on mineral resource information such as CalTrans, the Department of Water Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, etc.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES TO CUSTOMERS

1. Establish mining and reclamation standards and policies to provide guidance and direction to Lead Agencies, mine operators, the California Geological Survey, the Office of Mine Reclamation, and other agencies and organizations (federal, state and local).
2. Represent the interests of the State in SMARA matters that are appealed to the Board for action.
3. Develop regulations to implement the statutes statewide so as to ensure a uniform application of the law throughout an environmentally and economically diverse state.

4. Encourage the production and conservation of the State's mineral resources, while establishing standards for the protection and preservation of the State's recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, and aesthetic features of the landscape.

3. GOALS, STRATEGIES AND OBJECTIVES

Goals represent what the Board aims to accomplish. They provide the basis for decisions about the nature, scope, and priority of the projects and activities the Board undertakes. While incorporating both its statutory mandates, and external and internal stakeholder comments, the Board has developed the following six important goals.

- GOAL I MINERAL RESOURCES:**
Research and oversee the prudent and sensible development, use, and conservation of the State's mineral resources.
- GOAL II RECLAMATION OF MINED LANDS**
Research and assure the comprehensive reclamation of mined lands to a usable condition that is readily adaptable for alternative land uses.
- GOAL III GEOLOGIC AND SEISMIC HAZARDS**
Research and develop geologic and seismic hazard information programs and policies for the benefit of the Public.
- GOAL IV FORUM FOR PUBLIC REDRESS**
Provide a direct forum for public participation in the development of policies and for appeals of agency actions.
- GOAL V EDUCATION & PUBLIC OUTREACH**
Develop and promote public education and outreach programs regarding the State's geology and mineral resources, and the Board's services.
- GOAL VI INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION**
Expand the Board's inter-governmental and inter-agency cooperation and communications.

On the following pages each goal is listed separately, along with the strategies and objectives that will assist the Board to achieve the goal. *Strategies* are a stated direction or action that provides a short-term approach to achieving the goal. *Objectives* are observable and tangible targets measured in terms of time, quality, or quantity. Goals and Objectives are tied to specific strategies through their numbering as Goal.Strategy.Objective. For example, Objective 1.2.1 is the first objective tied to Strategy 2 under Goal I. If an Objective relates to multiple strategies the second number will instead be two numbers separated by either a dash or a comma. Not all Strategies have been addressed by specific Objectives.

GOAL I. THE PRUDENT AND SENSIBLE DEVELOPMENT, USE, AND CONSERVATION OF THE STATE'S MINERAL RESOURCES

The State Mining and Geology Board seeks to advance the prudent and sensible development, use, and conservation of the State's valuable mineral resources so that those resources will be available for use by future generations

STRATEGIES

- 1.1 Identify and continuously improve the knowledge of the location and amounts of the State's mineral resources.
- 1.2 Establish mineral resources as a priority land use.
- 1.3 Encourage the wise use of mineral resources in anticipation of the State's future needs.
- 1.4 Maintain a yearly tabulation of the State's mineral resources reflecting the availability of mineral resources in California.
- 1.5 Maintain a yearly tabulation of economic geology data reflecting the health of the minerals industry in California.
- 1.6 Develop a Quality Assurance/Quality Control program, with other stakeholders, for the Department of Conservation SMARA Database and consider additional fields to assess overall Lead Agency performance and serve multiple stakeholders.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.1-5.1 Develop and recommend legislation and regulations to improve the effectiveness of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act.
- 1.1-5.2 Advance mineral land classification and designation programs to increase their effectiveness. Identify new areas that meet the criteria for designation as having regionally significant mineral resources. Update currently designated areas to account for land use changes.
- 1.2.1 Consider and develop state standards and regulations on local permitting of mineral resource lands throughout the state.

- 1.2.2 Develop a “Model Guideline Mineral Resource Management Policy” (MRMP) for local governments to reflect minimum regional requirements.
- 1.2.3 Determine the number of MRMP Lead Agencies and request copies of their current MRMPs and Mining Ordinances.
- 1.2.4 Review the MRMP and Mining Ordinance from each Lead Agency and compile into a permanent reference set in the Board and OMR office.
- 1.2.5 Explore methods of correcting the unfunded mandate impact on Mineral Resource Management Policies (MRMP) development in Lead Agencies without active mines.
- 1.2.6 Develop a standard protocol and format for response and Board recognition of Lead Agency Mineral Resource Management Policies (MRMP) and Mining Ordinances, including protocol for those not recognized by the Board.
- 1.2.7 Clarify Board policy and review standards for MRMP and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents. For example, should different categories of mineral land classification require different standards of protection by Lead Agencies?
- 1.2.8 Explore having the Board become an official Review Agency for selected CEQA and General Plan documents and receive them directly from the State Clearinghouse.
- 1.4.1 Develop a method of calculating realistic reserves / resources estimates that recognize the technical and economic limitations of surface mining.
- 1.5.1 Support the development of mineral demand forecast (future needs assessments for the State).
- 1.5.2 Support the development of economic geology data portraying the status of reclamation in the state.
- 1.6.1 Re-evaluate the effectiveness of the Classification-Designation Program by determining the amount of designated land and land classified Mineral Resource Zone-2 (MRZ-2) lost to uses incompatible with mining since the MRZ maps were originally transmitted to Lead Agencies.
- 1.6.2 Invite Lead Agencies to Board meetings throughout the year to discuss their respective SMARA programs.

- 1.6.3 Forward Letters of Inquiry noting areas of apparent weakness or deficiency in Lead Agency SMARA performance to those Lead Agencies.
- 1.6.4 Forward regular annual letters to all Lead Agencies setting the minimum adjustments required in financial assurances, based upon the California Consumer Price Index.
- 1.6.5 Continue monitoring Lead Agency performance in a regular and systematic manner.
- 1.6.6 Request regular annual reports from Department of Conservation Office of Mine Reclamation providing vital statistics on compliance, mines, mine owners, mining and reclamation.
- 1.6.7 Mineral and Geologic Resources Committee.

GOAL II. THE RECLAMATION OF MINED LANDS TO A USABLE CONDITION THAT IS READILY ADAPTABLE FOR ALTERNATIVE LAND USES

The State Mining and Geology Board recognizes that the prudent mining of California's valuable mineral resources is essential to the economic well being of the State and the needs of the society, as is the protection and subsequent beneficial use of mined and reclaimed lands and the elimination of residual hazards to the public health.

STRATEGIES

- 2.1 Achieve full compliance of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA).
- 2.2 Support the State's efforts to address abandoned mines issues.
- 2.3 Support and provide technical assistance to lead agencies.
- 2.4 Support and recognize the industry's effective compliance efforts.
- 2.5 Encourage a "level playing field" with recognition of the needs of small, medium and large scale surface mining operations.

OBJECTIVES

- 2.1.1 Develop and recommend legislation and regulations to improve the effectiveness of SMARA in the conservation of mineral resources, the reclamation of mined lands, and assure that they are adhered to by all operators and lead agencies.
- 2.1.2 Clarify SMARA requirements through the regulatory process.
- 2.1.3 Survey Lead Agencies to determine their level of activity and thoroughness in enforcement of SMARA compliance activities.
- 2.2.1 Develop policies for prioritizing the order and methods of reclamation of abandoned surface mines.
- 2.3.1 Provide Lead Agencies with guidelines for minimum performance.
- 2.3.2 Provide workshops and other forms of technical assistance.
- 2.4.1 Develop a list of examples of successfully reclaimed surface mine sites available to operators and Lead Agencies to

increase awareness of the broad range of available positive reclamation outcomes.

- 2.5.1 Review fee schedule and administration of penalties for small-to medium-scale surface mine operators.

GOAL III. DEVELOP GEOLOGIC AND SEISMIC HAZARD INFORMATION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC

California is the most geologically diverse and seismically active state in the United States. The State Mining and Geology Board seeks to reduce the impacts of geologic and seismic hazards by promoting the implementation of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act and the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act through the regulatory process and by encouraging public awareness of these and other geologic hazards.

STRATEGIES

- 3.1 Evaluate and promote the application of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act.
- 3.2 Evaluate and promote the application of the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act.
- 3.3 Provide policy to assist the State Geologist in the development and prioritization of programs, especially relating to seismic hazards mapping, Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zoning, and landslide mapping.
- 3.4 Promote all forms of information access for Lead Agencies, professionals and the general public.
- 3.5 Provide extensive Internet access for seismic hazards information.
- 3.6 Identify and develop stable funding sources for the acquisition and dissemination of geologic and seismic information.
- 3.7 Promote obtaining grants to seek funding for seismic hazards mapping program.
- 3.8 Promote a Coastal Hazards Mapping Program in cooperation with the California Coastal Commission.

OBJECTIVES

- 3.1-2.1 Develop and recommend legislation and regulations to improve the effectiveness of the Acts. This is a multi-year objective requiring identification and prioritization of the problems to be solved.

- 3.1-2.2 Identify local policies and mapping elements required as part of the Land Use Element of general plans.
- 3.4.1 Develop internet access to public information brochures containing advice where the public may obtain additional data on geologic and seismic hazards, mineral resources and mines, geologic maps, etc.
- 3.7-8.1 Develop and maintain relationships with the Seismic Safety Commission, the California Coastal Commission, Associations of Building Officials, the State Water Quality Control Board, the Board of Forestry, etc.

GOAL IV. PROVIDE A DIRECT FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND FOR APPEALS OF AGENCY ACTIONS

Statute requires the State Mining and Geology Board to “represent the general public interest”. The Board serves as a regulatory, policy and appeals body representing the State’s interests in geology, geologic and seismologic hazards, the identification and conservation of mineral resources, and the reclamation of mined lands.

STRATEGIES

- 4.1 Ensure consistent and equitable application of the laws under the Board’s jurisdiction.
- 4.2 Work cooperatively with local agencies, businesses and the public on matters within the Board’s jurisdiction.
- 4.3 Provide an impartial and expeditious appeals process for those seeking redress of grievances.

OBJECTIVES

- 4.1.1 Use the Internet to promote public access to policy and pending actions.
- 4.1.2 Review Board’s enforcement actions to develop information for the application of administrative penalties in a manner that will strongly encourage compliance.
- 4.1,3.1 Review, and revise as required, current regulatory appeals procedures.
- 4.3.1 Expeditiously process and respond to public inquiries for policy information and appeals procedures.
- 4.3.2 Develop flow-charts on internal appeal procedures.
- 4.3.3 Streamline review protocol so as to provide quicker decisions on appeals without short-changing affected parties.

GOAL V. DEVELOP AND PROMOTE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS REGARDING THE STATE'S GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES, AND THE BOARD'S SERVICES

The State Mining and Geology Board is authorized in statute to provide for the development of information on the State's geology, mineralogy, and seismology for the public. Since the Board represents the interests of the general public, it is necessary for the public to be aware of the services afforded by the Board.

STRATEGIES

- 5.1. Develop and promote risk communications.
- 5.2. Promote the use and development of educational materials regarding the State's geological diversity, seismic hazards, and mineral resources.
- 5.3 Support and promote educational tools and materials suitable for K-12 grade levels.
- 5.4. Develop outreach programs to public agencies, businesses, and earth science educational institutions.
- 5.5 Develop outreach programs for Lead Agencies, including workshops focusing on their obligations under SMARA, and synergy using various professional governmental organizations such as the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the League of California Cities.

OBJECTIVES

- 5.1-5.1 Develop and publish topical educational materials for general distribution in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and its Divisions.
- 5.2.1 Develop two-way communication links to public stakeholders for receiving and updating educational materials.
- 5.4.1 Encourage participation and presentations by the Board and Board staff in professional societies, trade associations, meetings and forums.

GOAL VI. EXPAND THE BOARD'S INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AND INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Many of the areas of responsibility of the State Mining and Geology Board have an impact on, and are impacted by, the workings of other state and federal agencies. The Board believes that for its programs to operate efficiently and effectively with the programs of others, it should work cooperatively with them in program development and implementation.

STRATEGIES

- 6.1 Clarify roles and relationships of the Board vis-à-vis the Department of Conservation and other related agencies.
- 6.2 Promote increased communications with other state and federal government agencies, boards, and commissions.
- 6.3 Coordinate policy developments with other state government agencies, boards and commissions.
- 6.4 Work cooperatively with local and State agencies on matters within the Board's jurisdiction.
- 6.5 Promote all forms of information access for public agencies.
- 6.6 Develop a Database for the public to use showing who and where in government to contact regarding state policies. Basically a FAQ section on the Board's website directing inquiries on mining or other Board related activities to the appropriate source or agency for an answer.
- 6.7 Update Federal and local agencies continuously regarding their roles in implementing State policies regarding conservation, reclamation, and geologic hazards.
- 6.8 Develop overall systematic programs for the Board's budget and staffing needs.
- 6.9 Promote professionalism and licensure, as appropriate, among technical staff at the Department of Conservation.
- 6.10 Encourage development of a systematic and comprehensive report from the Department of Conservation and its Divisions on the effectiveness of their programs.

- 6.11 Increase the usefulness of the Board website and develop additional tools and guidelines emphasizing needs of Lead Agencies.

OBJECTIVES

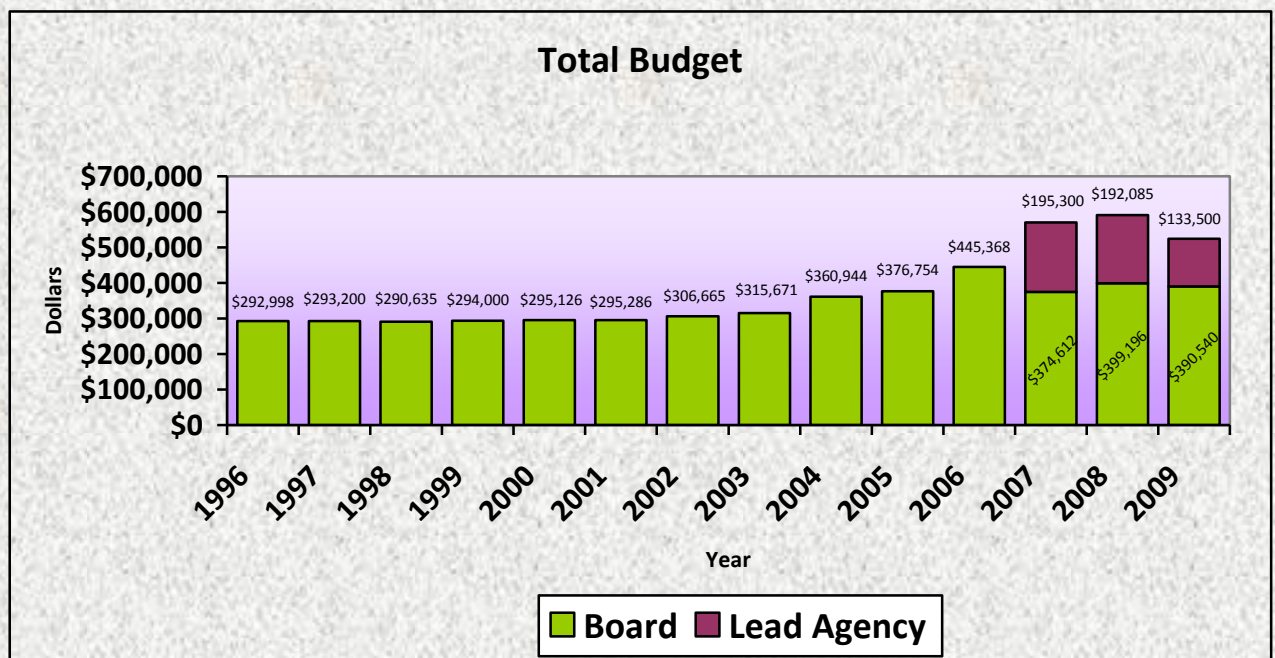
- 6.1.1 Define the internal working relationships and responsibilities between the Board and the Department of Conservation.
- 6.1.2 Develop legislative program to amend deficiencies, enhance interactions with the Department of Conservation and its Divisions, and promote the Board's goals and objectives.
- 6.1.3 Support the Department of Conservation effort to develop a GIS-based Mineral and Resource Management Policies (MRMP) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review tool that would flag intersections of mineral resource data with specific Lead Agency jurisdictional boundaries.
- 6.2.1 Identify other government agency stakeholders and define their relationship to the Board, including a contact person in that agency.
- 6.6.1 Define areas of conflict between requirements from federal, state, and local applications of SMARA and establish a conflict resolution team to address areas of non-compatibility.
- 6.9.1 Develop information and data for reports on the overall effectiveness that quantifies the various tasks, time lines, work loads, and status, of primary programs under SMARA, the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act and the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act. These reports that identify problem areas should be on the Board's website and appropriate Department websites.

4. BUDGET AND STAFFING PERSPECTIVE

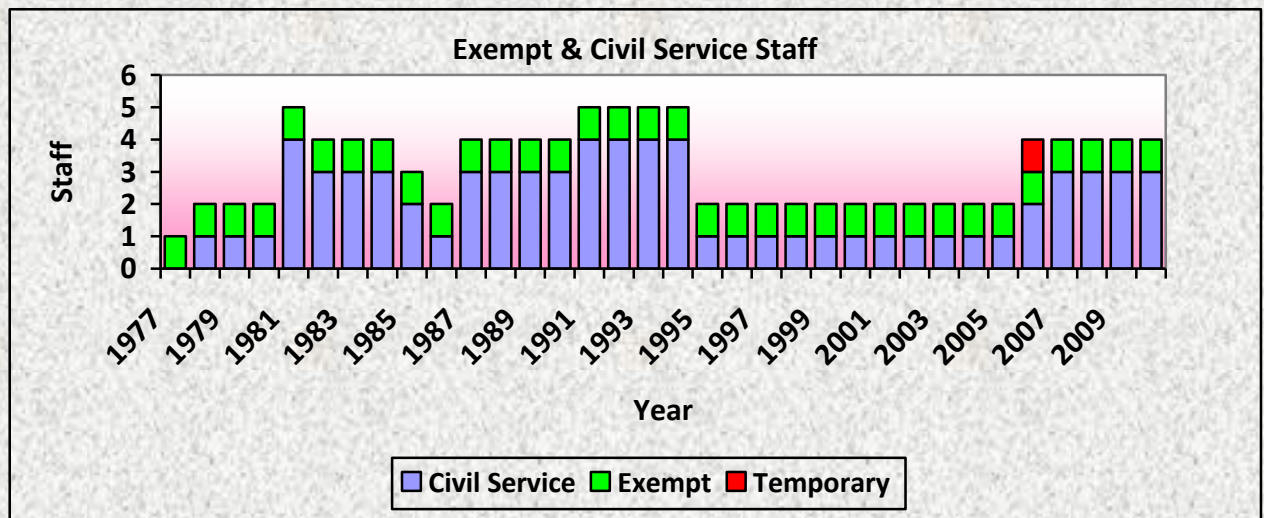
The Board recognizes that its Strategic Plan is aggressive, and is confident that it will meet the goals in a timely manner. The Board is served by committed Board members, and an Executive Officer and staff (Attachment A). To achieve the goals, strategies and objectives of the Strategic Plan (Attachment B), the Board recognizes the need to assess its overall budget and staffing needs in order to fulfill the Board's responsibilities and obligations to the people of the State of California.

The Board currently serves as both the Board and as a SMARA Lead Agency. As previously mentioned, the Board acts as a regulatory (policy), appeals, enforcement, and advisory body under three Acts [Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (Public Resources Code 2710 et. seq); Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone Mapping Act (Public Resources Code, Chapter 7.5, Section 2621-2630); Seismic Hazards Mapping Act (Public Resources Code Chapter 7.8, Section 2690 through Section 2699.6)]. In addition, the Board since March 2002 assumed Lead Agency authority under SMARA for two counties, ten cities and ten marine-sand dredging operations. With a current total of 50 mine sites statewide, the Board serves as one of the largest SMARA Lead Agencies in the state providing enforcement oversight with environmental and public health and safety significance. As such, this activity alone currently encompasses about 90 percent of Board staff time and resources. However, the Board has not significantly increased its overall budget and staff to fulfill its obligations and responsibilities.

The Board has historically received its funding from the Surface Mining and Reclamation Fund. The Board's operating budget and actual expenditures per fiscal year since 1996 has been relatively steady with marginal increases with time as illustrated below.



In addition, the Board historically had staff in the early 1990s. These positions included an Executive Secretary, Associate Analyst, Staff Services Analysts and Office Technician. By about 1994, Board staff, with exception to the Executive Officer and an assistant, was redirected to the Office of Mine Reclamation. The Board maintained an Executive Officer and assistant until 2006, when the Department of Conservation loaned two additional positions to the Board. These two positions included a Senior Geology Policy Analyst and office technician. In 2007, the Board acquired two permanent positions, a Senior Engineering Geologist and Office Technician, to assist the Board when administering certain obligations and responsibilities of SMARA lead agency. The historical perspective of the Board's staffing history is illustrated below.



Note: (a) The Board's Executive Officer is reflected as exempt staff.

Existing and future staffing and budgetary needs for the Board to accomplish the various elements of its Strategic Plan is a priority issue for the Board during upcoming years.

5. TARGETS FOR YEARS 2009-2010

The Board's Strategic Plan is aggressively designed to document the long-term direction the Board is working to achieve. With the current staff (2) of the Board, completion of strategies and objectives for all goals is obviously unrealistic. Additionally, ownership and partnership of many of the strategies and objectives falls in other areas of the Department of Conservation so will need to be agreed to and delegated by the Director who has that authority.

However, in spite of the limitations of small staff size, significant progress during the remainder of FY 2009 and during FY 2010 is anticipated to occur in most of the following areas:

Goal I, Objective 1.1.2: "Determine the number of MRMP Lead Agencies and request copies of their current MRMPs and Mining Ordinances." The Board received responses from Lead Agencies. Such information is currently being compiled and reviewed.

Goal I, Objective 1.2.1: "Develop A 'Model Guideline Mineral Resource Management Policy' for local governments to reflect minimum regional requirements." This objective is in progress.

Goal I, Objective 1.2.3: "Review the MRMP and Mining Ordinance from each Lead Agency and compile into a permanent reference set in the Board and OMR office." This objective is in progress.

Goal I, Objective 1.6.2: "Invite Lead Agencies to Board meetings throughout the year to discuss their respective Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) programs." This was initiated at the December 2006 regular business meeting for the County of Riverside. The Board has since heard from several Lead Agencies including Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, Sierra, Siskiyou AND Butte Counties.

Goal I, Objective 1.6.3: "Toward the objective of improving SMARA, forward Letters of Inquiry noting areas of apparent weakness or deficiency in Lead Agency SMARA performance to those Lead Agencies." This objective was delegated to the newly established Office of Mine Reclamation Lead Agency Review Team.

Goal I, Objective 1.6.5: "The Board should continue to monitor Lead Agency performance in a regular and systematic manner." This objective is on-going in concert with the newly established Office of Mine Reclamation Lead Agency Review Team, although the Board has been very responsive to public complaints regarding overall Lead Agencies failure to meet their respective responsibilities and obligations.

Goal II, Objective 2.1.2: "Develop and recommend legislation and regulations to improve the effectiveness of SMARA in the conservation of mineral resources, the reclamation of mined lands, and

assuring that they are adhered to by all operators and lead agencies.” Provide legislative timelines and broad overviews of the Board’s various programs to evaluate future regulatory directions. This objective is on-going.

Goal II, Objective 2.3.1: “Provide Lead Agencies with guidelines for minimum performance.” Specifically in regards to MRMPs.

Goal II, Objective 2.3.2: “Provide workshops and other forms of technical assistance.” Present at minimum two workshops or short courses pertaining to implementation of earth science policy and the Board’s regulations.

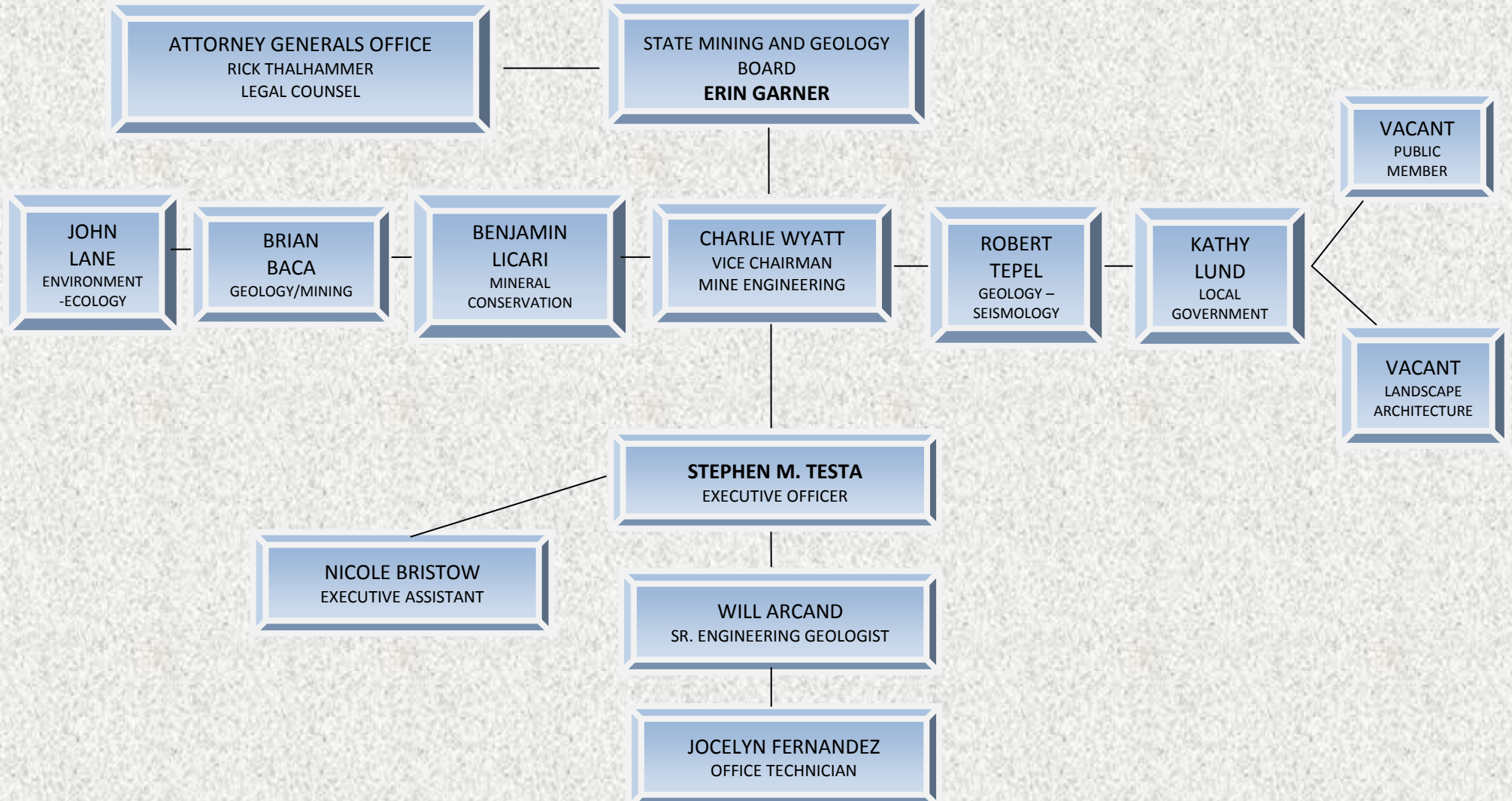
Goal III, Objective 3.1-2.1: “Develop and recommend legislation and regulations to improve the effectiveness of the Acts. This is a multi-year objective requiring identification and prioritization of the problems to be solved.” A Technical Advisory Committee under the Geohazard Committee was formulated to evaluate the state of the practice of in-field fault evaluation and recommend improvements to the statute if necessary, specifically, in regards to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act. This objective is on-going.

Goal IV, Objective 4.3.1: “Expediently process and respond to public inquiries for policy information and appeals procedures.” Process and respond to 75% of all policy and appeals requests within ten days of receipt.

Goal V, Objective 5.4.1: “Encourage participation and presentations by the Board and Board staff in professional societies, trade associations, meetings and forums.” Publish and present at least six papers or presentations per calendar year.

Goal VI, Objective 6.9.1: “Develop information and data for reports on the overall effectiveness that quantifies the various tasks, time lines, work loads, and status, of primary programs under SMARA, the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act and the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act. These reports that identify problem areas should be on the Board’s website and appropriate Department websites.” Publish a minimum of two reports per year.

ATTACHMENT A
STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD
ORGANIZATION CHART



ATTACHMENT B

OVERVIEW OF THE STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN